



Trail News

April 17, 2014

From the *Meeteetse Conservation District*

P.O. Box 237 • 910 Park Avenue • Meeteetse, WY 82433

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NRCS:

Rory Karhu, *District Conservationist*

Teton Conservation District (TCD) Hiring For Water Resources Specialist (WRS)

Teton Conservation District is a local conservation district government authorized by Wyoming State Statutes. The **Water Resource Specialist** is a full time, salaried, professional position with a comprehensive benefits package and is responsible for the diverse surface and ground water programs and projects of TCD. The WRS works under the direct supervision of the TCD Executive Director. For a complete position description, contact Randy Williams, Executive Director at randy@tetonconservation.org or by calling the office at 307-733-2110. Applications require a cover letter, résumé or curriculum vitae, and three (3) professional references to be submitted and combined into one (1) electronic file copy to randy@tetonconservation.org. **The application must be received by the Teton Conservation District no later than April 30, 2014.**

--- Co-Existing With Large Carnivores ---

On April 24th, Matt Barnes with Keystone Conservation will be giving a presentation on *Livestock Management to Facilitate Coexistence with Large Carnivores While Sustaining Livestock Production and Rangeland Health*. Local ranchers are encouraged to attend and participate in the presentation. The presentation begins at 6:00pm at the Meeteetse Conservation District office.

***** USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant Webinars April 30 & May 6 *****

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture will provide over \$19 million to organizations that apply for grants to provide education, training, technical assistance and outreach for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and managers of non-industrial private forestland. Priority will be given to projects that are partnerships and collaborations led by or including non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and school-based agricultural educational organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach. The USDA will be holding two webinars for interested applicants on April 30 and May 6 at 4 p.m. (MDT).

* **To sign up for the webinars, go to:** www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp.html.

* **Grant applications are due June 12. To apply, go to:** www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/beginningfarmersandranchers.cfm.

--- Drought Contingency Plan Workshops for USFS and BLM Permittees ---

Workshop Date: May 6th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is hosting a series of workshops across the state to help USFS and BLM permittees develop drought contingency plans for their grazing permits. Partners for this project include the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, the Wyoming Association of Conservation District, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, and the Wyoming State Grazing Board. For more information and to sign up to join the workshop, visit <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/droughtplanning/>. If you do not have internet access but would like to participate in the webinar, contact your local Conservation District office to see if they will be hosting a webinar meeting that you can attend.

***** Farm Bill Program Requesting Priority Forest Areas Opened *****

On March 19, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell sent a letter to all state governors notifying them of the opportunity to submit requests for designating their priority insect and disease areas for treatment. NACD will soon have more information regarding the timeline for requests and opportunities for conservation district input. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=farmbill

--- USDA Disaster Assistance Program Officially Opens ---

Yesterday, USDA announced that farmers and ranchers can sign up for disaster assistance programs, reestablished and strengthened by the 2014 Farm Bill, beginning Tuesday, April 15. For more information, visit their website at: www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2014/04/0054.xml&contentidonly=true

Little Brown Towns: Stand to Defend

~ by Kathleen Jachowski, Executive Director, Guardians of the Range

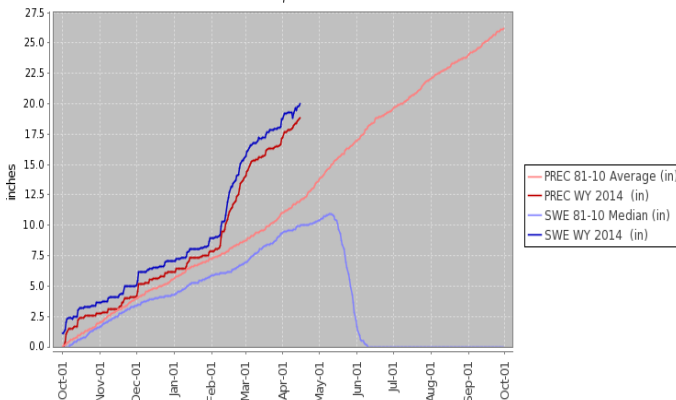
The descriptive term, little brown towns (lbt), always comes to mind as I travel the endless miles around much of the Western landscape. The wind, water, soils and geology have allowed settlement by only the hardiest and those who could see the potential that hard work, risk taking and perseverance could produce. The drastic changes in both our economy and more importantly in the political makeup of the decision makers in Washington, D. C. leave the little brown towns scattered across the Western landscape at serious risk. They are at risk for having significant pieces of legislation passed and regulations modified which are driven by the emotions and appetite for control long held in reasonable check by the political composition of the U. S. House and US Senate. This buffer of reason has been lost in the last election cycles. Changes afoot to the Clean Water Act, new proposals for Wilderness legislation, expansion of wild horse and burro areas, pending listing of the Sage-grouse as an endangered species across 11 western states, designation of special management areas (SMA) which easily marginalize and restrict multiple use on both U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, are just a few of the threats that dot the legal landscape we are now facing. To read more, visit www.GuardiansOfTheRange.org.

--- SNOTEL Updates as of 04/15/2014 ---

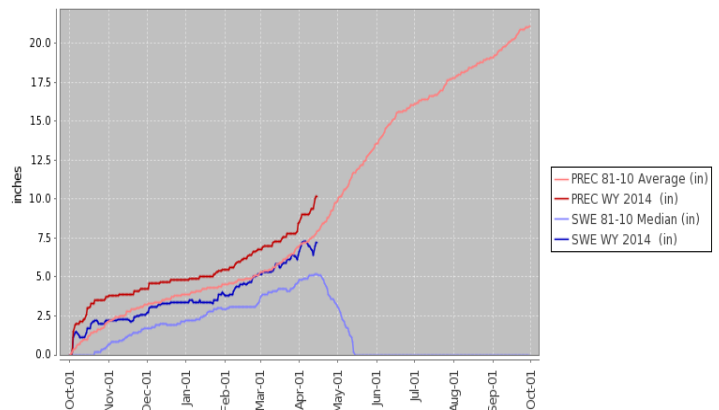
For more current updates, log on to: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snotel/Wyoming/wyoming.html

Wyoming (PST) SNOTEL Site KIRWIN (560) (09F24S) Wyoming (PST) SNOTEL Site TIMBER CREEK (819) (09E03S) Daily series for wateryear=2014

Station (560) WATERYEAR=2014 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Tue Apr 15 10:23:34 PDT 2014



Station (819) WATERYEAR=2014 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Tue Apr 15 10:29:35 PDT 2014



-----Reminders and Updates-----

- April 24** ~ Livestock Management to facilitate "Coexistence with Large Carnivores While Sustaining Livestock Production and Rangeland Health" presentation at 6:00pm at the Meeteetse Conservation District office.
- April 26** ~ Poultry Workshop with Hudson Hill UW Research & Extension Center, Powell
- April 30** ~ USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant Webinar at 4:00 p.m.
- May 1** ~ NRCS State Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:00am in Casper
- May 6** ~ Drought Contingency Plan Workshops for USFS and BLM Permittees from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- May 6** ~ USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant Webinar at 4:00 p.m.
- May 14** ~ MCD Board of Supervisors regular monthly meeting at the MCD office, 910 Park Avenue, Meeteetse. Begins at 7:00pm.

Through its *Trail News*, the MCD hopes to keep the community informed, and all of us here, as your local government, encourage you to give us feedback, fresh ideas and comments so that the District can represent the Meeteetse community in the best way possible. For a copy of the Trail News by email, please call us at 307-868-2484 or send an email request to: mcd@tctwest.net.

Happy Trails to You! Blaise, Steffen, Bernie, Steve and Ginny